

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

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R 211623Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6221

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: DGB'S VETTER REPORTEDLY OPENS DOOR TO OFFICIAL CONTACTS
WITH CGT AND CGIL

REF: PARIS 30194

1. JANUARY 21 ISSUE L'EXPRESS CARRIES BOXED ARTICLE BY VETERAN LABOR
REPORTER GEORGE VALANCE, INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF WHICH FOLLOWS:

""WHERE WORKERS' INTERESTS TRANSCEND NATIONAL FRONTIERS - FOR
EXAMPLE, IN THE CASE OF MULTINATIONAL FIRMS - WE MUST HAVE CONTACTS
AT COMPANY LEVEL WITH THE CGT AND THE CGIL.' THIS ' LITTLE PHRASE '
TO THE EXPRESS BY HEINZ OSKAR VETTER, LEADER OF THE GERMAN TRADE
UNIONS, IS REVOLUTIONARY. IT IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE DGB
OFFICIALLY OPENED THE DOOR TO CONTACTS WITH THE CGT AND THE CGIL.

ON THE OTHER HAND, M. VETTER'S EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET
TRADE UNIONS MAY COOL. SATURDAY, DURING A EUROPEAN TRADE UNION
CONFERENCE AT GENEVA, HE (VETTER) ASKED THEM (SOVIET UNIONS) TO
ACCOUNT FOR

THEIR ATTITUDE WITH REGARD TO THE OIL EMBARGO. 'IT WAS', SAID

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VETTER, 'THEIR DUTY IN THE NAME OF TRADE UNION SOLIDARITY TO INTER-

VE NE WITH THEIR GOVERNMENT, SAID THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE ARAB STATES, TO AID WESTERN WORKERS THREATENED BY UNEMPLOYMENT'. THIS WAS AN UNEXPECTED LESSON IN PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM FOR M. SHELEPIN, LEADER OF THE SOVIET TRADE UNIONS."

2. COMMENT: NOTE QUALIFICATION "AT COMPANY LEVEL". STONE

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